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Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOME 01136 091339 Z

70
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 OMB-01 NIC-01 ACDA-19 RSR-01 /115 W
---------- 047422
R 091150 Z JUN 73
FM AMEMBASSY LOME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6380
INFO AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOME 1136

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TO, LY, PFOR, IS
SUBJ: POLYCARPE JOHNSON REPORTS FROM LIBYA

1. TOGO- PRESSE 5 AND 7 JUNE CARRIED FIRST TWO OF SERIES OF ARTICLES BY DIRECTOR GENERAL POLYCARPE JOHNSON ON HIS RECENT VISIT TO LIBYA FEATURING HIGHLY COMPLIMENTARY OBSERVATIONS ABOUT COLONEL QADHAFI' S LEADERSHIP AND PHILOSOPHY. ONE ARTICLE, AFTER DESCRIBING AND RELATING QADHAFI' S JUSTIFICATIONS FOR SOME OF HIS MORE EXTREME STANCES (SUPPORT PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS, BOOK BURNING, RELIGIOUS EXHORTATIONS) GOES ON TO SAY THAT JOHNSON, PERSONALLY, DOES NOT CONSIDER QADHAFI A FANATIC BUT RATHER A HUMANIST IN THE ISLAMIC- CHRISTIAN TRADITION.

2. COMMENT. JOHNSON, CHIEF OF THE GOT OFFICIAL PRESS, IS WELL- KNOWN FOR HIS ANTI- WESTERN VIEWS, AS WELL AS FOR HIS OPPORTUNISM. THE ARTICLES HAVE ALREADY RESULTED IN CONSIDERABLE UNFAVORABLE COMMENT AMONG EDUCATED TOGOLESE, WHO ARE
NOT DEPENDENT ON JOHNSON FOR THE INFORMATION ON WHICH THEY HAVE FORMED THEIR OPINION OF QADHAFI, BUT THEY TEND TO DISMISS POLYCARPE AS VENAL AND CAPABLE OF BEING BOUGHT BY THE LIBYANS. A MORE SERIOUS POSSIBLILITY, WHICH MUST BE TAKEN INTO
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CONSIDERATION, WOULD BE THAT THE GOT IS SOFTENING UP THE LARGELY PRO- ISRAELI EDUCATED PUBLIC FOR A FINANCIALLY INDUCED SWITCH FROM TOGO' S TRADITIONAL POLICY OF FRIENDSHIP WITH ISRAEL.
DICKINSON

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Disposition Authority: golinofr
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Subject: POLYCARPE JOHNSON REPORTS FROM LIBYA
TAGS: PFOR, IS, LY, TO
To: AF
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SECSTATE WASHDC
TEL AVIV
TRIPOLI
Type: TE
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